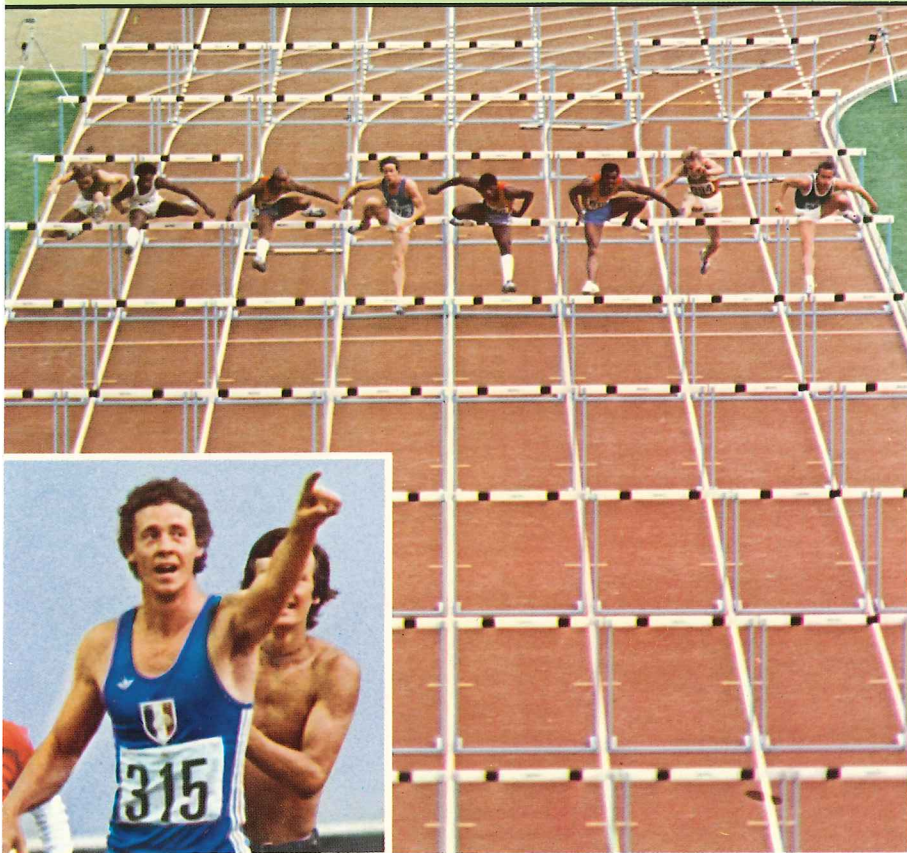


Track and Field



Guy Drut



Finals of the 110 m hurdles in the 1976 Olympics in Montreal

L to R: *Victor Miasnikov (USSR), Alejandro Casanas (C), Charles Foster (USA), Guy Drut (FRA), Willie Davenport (USA), James Owens (USA), Viacheslav Kulebiakin (USSR), Thomas Munkelt (GDR)*

Track and Field



Guy Drut

A Challenge to the USA

Twenty thousand spectators gave Guy Drut a standing ovation on August 22, 1975, at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin, where he had just broken the world record in the 110 m hurdles with a time of 13 seconds.

He was only the second European (Martin Lauer of Germany in 1959 was the first) to overcome the American monopoly on this event. After years of hard work, the 24-year-old Frenchman had become an international hero. He became the favorite in the 110 m hurdles in Montreal, even though the Americans had always dominated that event in Olympic competition. Drut had already won a silver medal at Munich and the 1974 European Championship in Rome—and he didn't disappoint his fans at Montreal. As predicted, he ran away with the gold medal.

But Drut did not concentrate on the 110 m hurdles until late in his career. In 1968, at the age of 17, he was competing both in the pole vault, clearing 4.71 meters (15' 6.5") and the 110 m hurdles, where he was clocked at 14.1 seconds. It was only in the spring of 1969 that he decided

to devote all his energy to the hurdles after a stay in Brescia with trainer Alessandro Calvesi.

After working with Calvesi, Drut's times showed constant improvement: 13.7 in 1969; 13.3 in 1970; 13.3 in 1972 (the year he won the silver in Munich); 13.2 in 1974 (along with his big break, the European title); and 13.1 in July 1975 equalling the world record set by Rod Milburn of the U.S. A month later, Drut became the world champion himself.

Drut probably could have gone on to greater successes in the decathlon—his talent and will power seemed to point him in that direction. And after the 1976 Olympics, he decided to give that grueling event a try.

GUY DRUT

Born Dec. 6, 1950, in Oignies, Pas-de-Calais, FRA

AWARDS AND RECORDS

World record, 110 m hurdles in 13.00 (manual)

European record, 110 m hurdles
in 13.28 (electronic, 1975)

1972 OG: silver medal in 110 m hurdles

1976 OG: gold medal in 110 m hurdles

European Title: 1972 in Grenoble (indoor)
1974 in Rome

US Title: 1976 (indoor)

Finals of the 110 m hurdles at the 1976 Olympics – Insert: favored to win... and the winner